

Profile

a guide to military careers

November 1988



PROFILE'S December issue features a story about Marine Reconnaissance. It also includes articles on Coast Guard aviation structural mechanics, Air Force space systems operations specialists, Army satellite communications and life aboard a Navy submarine.



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About the covers

Front: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Susan K. Pascanik, a hospital corpsman and diver at Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two, Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, suits up in the Mark 12 for a 125-foot mixed gas dive. (Photo by JO2 Pamela Combs)

Back: A member of the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army Parachute Team, glides past Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. (U.S. Army photo)

Under Water Team Spirit

Story and photos
by PA1 Rick Woods

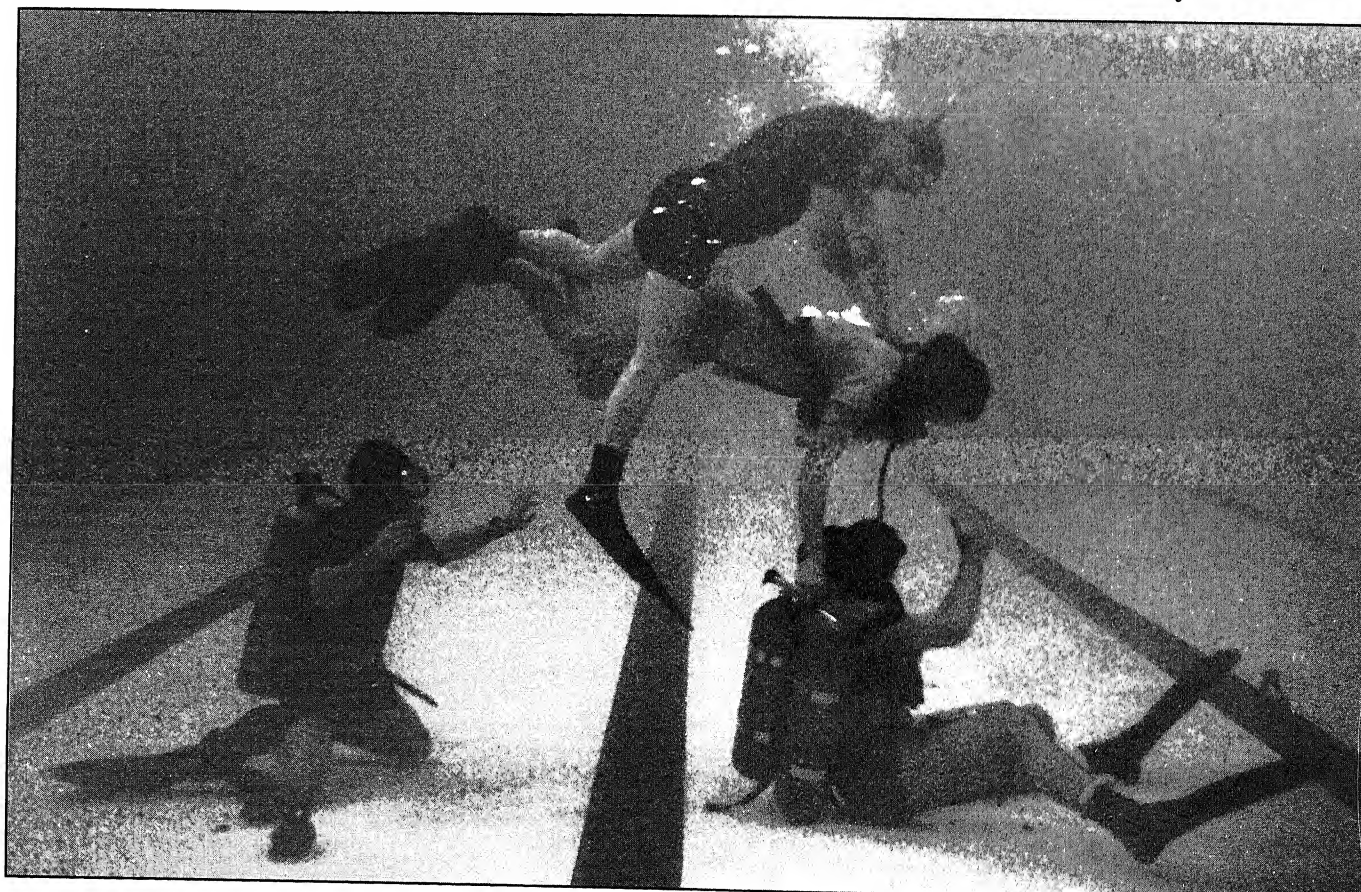
Navy Diver School is tough. In 13 weeks instructors there teach students how to survive underwater. The standards for

qualification are never lowered. Divers' lives depend on those standards, and the instructors accept no compromises.

The first day there were 25 members starting the spring class at the Second Class Diving and Salvage School, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek Va. Weeks of daily, extensive

physical exercise alternating with intense classroom training followed.

Four weeks later 18 trainees strapped on tanks, masks and fins, and waited in pairs in the shallow end of the pool. Two by two they kicked off starting the hardest week yet, putting into practice the theory and techni-



Instructors slip down from above and turn off their air, knock off their face masks and create other 'problems.'

ques they'd been taught in class and pool.

Men and women who make it to this stage have already had their physical endurance tested. One week of diving physics and two weeks of medical aspects have been covered very, very thoroughly.

The fifth week's first phase is "problem solving." The instructors are mostly concerned with one thing: Can their students keep their cool in a tough situation when everything seems to go wrong at once?

This is the most dangerous phase of training. Students are on their own, and the most frequent mistake is panic. Safety observers watch their every move while a Master Diver medical specialist waits poolside. There will be at least one student who will try to "drink the pool."

Master Chief Petty Officer Charles Veasey, Master Diver and medical specialist said, "The instructors create 'problems' for the students to solve at the bottom of the pool."

Pairs of students, 'dive buddies,' don full scuba gear, duck under the surface in the shallow end of the pool and head for deeper water. A three minute timer starts when they kick off the wall. Unseen, an instructor drifts above them waiting to dip down and cause unexpected 'problems' for the teams to solve. They endure having their face masks pulled off; their air valves turned off; their hoses and harnesses tied in knots. The teams have three minutes to untangle the mess. If they don't get their gear back on before the clock runs out, the instructors make them do it again.

The instructors want students to make their mistakes in the pool. There are some crucial lessons to be learned here where the water is clear and warm, and dry land is 25 feet away. "They have to be comfortable in the water, and they have to have confidence in their own ability to solve problems," said Lieutenant Debra Bodensadt, Dive School Training Officer. They have to learn to never, ever leave their

buddy. The instructors want them all to rely on each other and to vow "he's not leavin' me!" Student divers who finish this training "realize that they met a challenge and bested it," Master Chief Petty Officer and Master Diver William Brooks said. "They also have to learn their limitations," he added.

The relieved, exhausted finishers of a week of underwater problem solving call out "ladder clear!" as they haul themselves dripping and gasping back onto dry land. Each looks their diving partner in the eyes searching for signs of unequal pupil size, twitching, or facial lopsidedness that are hints of potentially fatal gas bubbles in the blood and brain. They call out "TEAM ONE ON DECK-TEAM ONE OKAY!!" as they pass each other in this last final exam.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael

Garvin and his partner Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Puglise are graduate problem solvers, still dripping from their final exam. Garvin said, "My grandfather was a Navy diver. I was raised with it. You have to keep going, keep doing it, you have to want it."

Successful problem solvers will continue training and learn to work with surface-supplied air systems for divers in maintenance and salvage procedure training.

A Navy guided missile cruiser waits at a Norfolk Naval Station, Va., pier for underwater propeller repairs to be finished. A team of 12 divers working with ships riggers and engineers has taken just two weeks to replace most of the damaged propeller blades.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dawn Matteoni, the dive supervisor, calls out "Mark time, diver



Stark signals his tender Petty Officer 1st Class (Diver) Wilhelm Solheim III that all his equipment is right and he's ready for his turn underwater.

down!" and clicks a stopwatch. On the flat rear deck of the stubby gray Navy boat, the diver tender pulls off another coil of hose and cable from the rack and feeds it to the diver who has just slipped into the murky green water astern. Divers' bubbles rise from the area under the ship where teams of underwater mechanics unbolt and replace the heavy blades one by one.

Master Chief Petty Officer (Master Diver) David Baiss said "We're doing more and more 'ships husbandry' work, that's plugging, patching and underwater repair work, than ever before." He calls dockside repair work the "bread and butter" of the Navy maintenance and salvage diver profession.

A two-ton bronze propeller blade the size of a garage door dangles from a crane on the pier beside the ship, delicately balanced in a special handling bridle, ready to mount. Down below, divers have removed a damaged blade and are almost ready to mount this new one.

They're working nearly blind,

using memorized procedures from repair manuals, but coached from the surface, using parts and tools lowered to them in bags and canvas buckets. The procedures were originally worked out while a ship was in dry dock, but now they're floating, working them upside down, without gravity to hold them down while they tighten bolts. They're working by feel, peering at strain gauges for the six inches they can see.

Matteoni talks to the divers in the water constantly. She carefully coordinates and monitors when and where divers following her directions mount each part and twist tight each bolt. Divers are in constant contact with the surface team by intercom included in the 'umbilical' of air lines, safety cables and hot water that heats the suit.

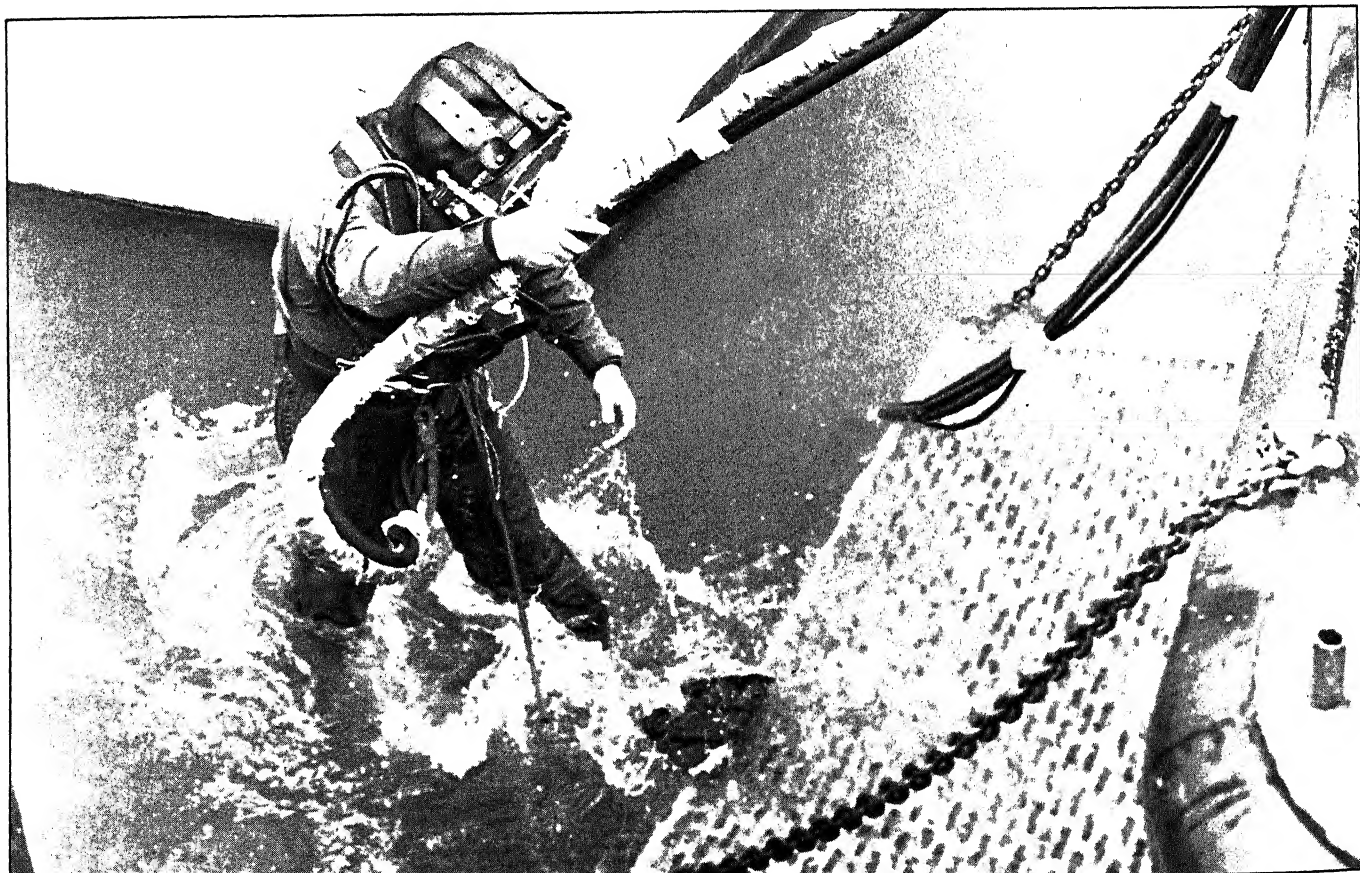
"Take a light strain...Hold it...need some slack...take a strain...heavy strain...Tie it off!!" Working together, and coordinated by Matteoni, diver and surface tender have positioned another of the heavy experimental hydraulic jacks they've been

using to handle the massive blades with microscopic precision.

They work regularly with experimental equipment, expanding their knowledge and the list of jobs they're capable of doing. They're pioneers and experimental engineers putting to the test the new equipment and techniques. "Every job is a learning experience," Baiss said.

Some of the work is glamorous. Sometimes it's grim, and deadly serious. It's almost always challenging. Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Van Edwards said, "Installing new propeller blades is pretty basic. Some of our more publicized assignments have been the Challenger space shuttle recovery, the Titanic exploration, and (with the National Park Service) charting the Arizona Memorial and the wreck of the USS Utah in Pearl Harbor."

"Working together so closely is one of the most satisfying parts of this rating. We all have strengths and weaknesses. Working as a team makes it all come together," Baiss said. ◻



Keeping Weapons 'Always Ready'

Coast Guardsmen don't fire their weapons in anger very often, but Gunner's Mates make sure those weapons will be there to put steel in the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus" - Always Ready.

Story and photo
by PA1 Rick Woods

Coast Guardsmen don't fire their weapons in anger very often, but Gunner's Mates make sure those weapons will be there to put steel in the Coast Guard motto "Always Ready."

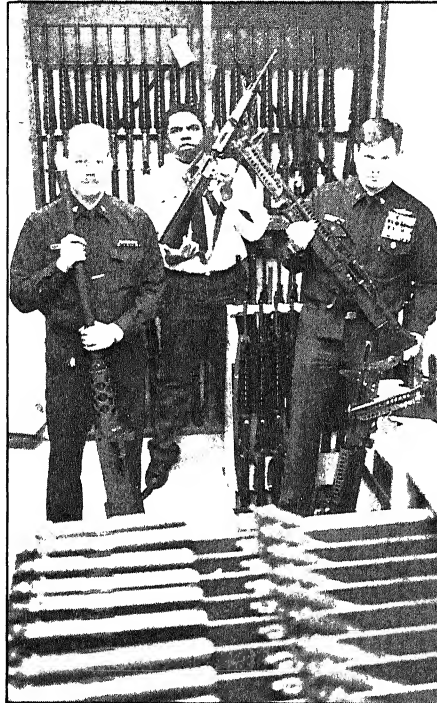
The Gunner's Mate must be an expert in everything from small arms to rocket launchers. Even the flares used during night search and rescue missions are responsibilities of the Gunner's Mate. GMs operate, maintain and repair all gunnery equipment and handle ammunition.

Chief Petty Officer Sean McDonald can tear down and rebuild a Colt M1911 .45 caliber automatic pistol in two minutes, 27 seconds. "I used to challenge students to try to beat me for a case of soft drinks (when he was an instructor at Coast Guard GM (A) school). The bet made it fun, and the competition was good for getting students used to handling the .45," he said.

"That's fun, that's training, but we take our rate very seriously. We don't allow ourselves to relax when we're around weapons," McDonald added.

Chief Petty Officer Thomas Barnhardt doesn't talk much about the Silver and Bronze Stars or the Purple Hearts and 24 other awards that he's earned in a career that took him to Vietnam for seven years, among other assignments.

However, he does talk about the Coast Guard's many missions, with day-to-day responsibilities including search and rescue, aids



to marine and air navigation, U.S. law enforcement, and, as one of the armed forces, military readiness. Coast Guard units and the men and women who staff them must be ready to perform tasks related to any or all of those missions any day.

The people who work with Coast Guard weapons must be confident, meticulous, highly-motivated individuals who work well alone or in teams. Good GMs should be mechanically inclined, and school classes in mathematics, electricity, physics and shopwork are good background training.

Gunner's Mate (A) school is at Yorktown, Va. In eleven weeks of school trainees learn basic electronics and electricity, hydraulics

and optics fundamentals, and small arms use and maintenance.

McDonald said, "The job of the Coast Guard GM has changed dramatically. Ten years ago we used a gun system on our 378-foot cutters that was designed before World War II. Now the Coast Guard is changing to a 76mm automatic cannon that fires 86 rounds per minute for primary defense of its largest cutters." The control system for the Mark 75 automatic cannon is almost entirely handled by digital electronic computers linked to the ships' combat systems.

Aboard the 270-foot Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane, Gunner's Mate Chief Petty Officer Douglas Coveny, chief of the weapons department, heads a team of four Gunner's Mates who maintain a 76mm cannon, machine guns, torpedo and chaff launchers, an arsenal of small arms, and magazines full of ammunition and pyrotechnics. He said, "Besides maintaining our own weapons, signalling and search and rescue equipment, a GM is there on every boarding of a vessel. The GM records the serial numbers of all weapons found, makes sure those weapons are unloaded and explosives on the vessel are handled safely."

For Coveny and the weapons specialists aboard Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane, the spotless ammunition magazines, gleaming rifle and cannon barrels, and well-oiled small arms are an unspoken message. Their care and attention to detail speak of the pride of the Coast Guard Gunner's Mate. ◻



Marines adjust each other's protective equipment during an exercise in a mock contaminated environment.

Unseen Danger Specialists

**Story and photos
By Spc Paul White**

The gas chamber. Most Marines spend but a few minutes in one, yet few ever forget the experience. Its purpose is to give Marines confidence in their protective equipment.

During basic training, recruits wearing gas masks file into a room filled with tear gas, a non-lethal yet irritating substance. All is calm until the recruits are instructed to remove their masks. The gas takes effect quickly. "It's like burying your head in a bucket of pepper and trying to breathe," one Marine said. Once released, the recruits dash from the room, eyes and noses running as well as their legs.

"I thought I was going to die," said PFC Trent M. Branca, reflecting on his gas chamber experience. These days Branca is much more familiar with tear gas. As a nuclear, biological and chemical defense specialist, he uses it to train fellow Marines in how to protect themselves in a chemically contaminated environment.

Tear gas may be uncomfortable, but the chemical agents which have been used in wars can be fatal. Nerve and blood agents kill instantly. A choking agent can

cause its victim to drown on dry land. Exposure to a blister agent can render a troop useless to his unit.

NBC specialists spread their knowledge throughout Marine units in a variety of ways, according to Gunnery Sgt. Mark F. Dove, the ranking enlisted man in the NBC platoon for the 2nd Marine Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. "We teach individual survival measures such as the proper wearing of the mask and equipment, how to identify a chemical environment and how to react," Dove said.

The equipment, known as Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or MOPP, gear, consists of a charcoal-lined suit, rubber boots and gloves and the protective mask. In full MOPP gear, the wearer takes on an alien appearance, something like a monster in a 1940s Buck Rogers movie. Despite its appearance, however, the suit is designed to protect against chemical agents for up to six hours.

"Each unit also has a person in charge of its NBC training," Dove continued, "and we train these people in unit survival measures such as decontaminating trucks and tanks, decontaminating individuals, and

how to monitor the levels of contamination in a given area. We'd like for NBC defense to be as basic a skill to Marines as shooting a rifle."

In a battlefield situation, NBC specialists collect data on contaminated areas and advise unit commanders about hazardous areas. "We also assist damage control," Dove said. "We want to limit the chance of contamination and remove contamination as fast as possible."

NBC specialists are trained at an Army school in Fort McClellan, Ala. The course is an "intense five weeks and three days," according to Dove.

Dove added that despite the rigorous schooling, NBC specialists need on-the-job training before they are proficient. But before long the new NBC specialist may find himself training Marines who have considerably more time in service. "It's a challenge," Dove said. "It's not unusual to see PFCs standing in front of 30 or 40 people, telling them how to survive. The job calls for a lot of personal responsibility."

"It's not too difficult," Branca said of shouldering the responsibility. "They want to learn what to do, and they know I know how to do it." ♦

Education Specialists

Story and photos by
SSgt. Linda Mitchell

"Military members often don't realize that their college education starts in basic training," said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Leatherman, non-commissioned officer in charge of Base Education Services, 436th Military Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

"The Air Force offers credit hours for basic military leadership classes and for physical training. Credit hours are added for technical school training, Career Development Courses (CDCs) completed during on-the-job training, and all professional military education attended while in the service.

"These credits add up toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) in the airman's career field," the education services specialist explained. "Additionally, the



Sergeant Leatherman inputs some data to a student's education record.

credits can possibly be used toward degrees through civilian universities and colleges.

"Education services specialists answer their questions about education programs and courses they're interested in," he said. "We calculate how many credits they've already earned, and establish their education records."

After determining how many credit hours the applicant already has, education services specialists help the student find the program that best fits their needs. This includes administering CDC end-of-course tests, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and other entrance examinations free of charge.

"Our education programs operate both on and off base. On-base programs are often run by out-of-state educational institutions using the base as a campus. On-base college counselors help the students register for class, and education services specialists assist the students with their tuition assistance and Veterans Administration (VA) benefits.

"Off-base college counselors meet the students on the schools' local campuses, and they often have their own VA representative to help the student with tuition. We still assist them with the Air Force Tuition Assistance Program, however."

Education services specialists work with GI Bill programs as well as tuition assistance. The students' choice of program is determined by when they entered the service and whether they plan to save their GI Bill benefits for when they get out of the service.

Records of students entered in off-duty education are closely monitored by education services specialists to make sure students maintain an acceptable grade point average.

Sergeant Leatherman helps a prospective student with education paperwork.



Most education services specialists enter the career field with prior experience in another Air Force specialty. "One of the nice things about this job is the blending of Air Force specialties in the education office," Leatherman explained. "We've already experienced situations the students may be going through, such as temporary duty assignments and shift work. We have had to arrange our own off-duty college schedules around our work schedules."

The job doesn't stop at establishing the students' education files. Education services specialists make sure classrooms are available, and arrange for audio-visual equipment. Stateside, the job is mostly administrative with very little counseling involved. Overseas, however, education services specialists become involved in all aspects of the education office. This includes counseling students, surveying the people assigned to the base to determine what courses are needed, and establishing course schedules for each semester or quarter.

"The job is more demanding overseas, but it's also more rewarding," Leatherman said. "We become more involved in the process of helping someone achieve their dream of obtaining a college education." ◻



Golden Knights

The U.S. Army Parachute Team

by SFC Karen Polston

The plane is 13,500 feet in the air, 2 1/2 miles above the earth. Four parachutists jump, freefalling at 200 miles per hour. Red smoke billows from canisters attached to their boots, marking their descent.

In 10 seconds, they come within inches of each other in the shape of a diamond. At the 3,000-foot mark, the jumpers separate, and then open their chutes at 2,000 feet. The jumpers float to earth under the distinctive black and gold canopy of their parachutes.

They are the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army Parachute Team. These specially selected airborne soldiers demonstrate their skills each year to millions of spectators and compete in national and international parachuting competitions. A few of the locations where they have performed include West Berlin, Australia, Canada, the West Indies, and all over the United States.

The Golden Knights use a rectangular-shaped parachute which resembles a huge air mattress. These parachutes are highly maneuverable and the jumper controls his flight with hand-held steering lines.

The team was founded in 1959 at Fort Bragg, N.C. and has grown from the original 13 members to a unit of 76 men and women. The unit is divided into two demonstration teams, two competition teams, an aviation section and a headquarters department. The demonstration teams travel 280 days a year to more than 300 shows coast-to-coast and around the world.

Before each demonstration season begins, the Golden Knights fine tune their skills during an "in-

tense" six-week program held in Yuma, Arizona, according to Capt. Marcus Bonds, operations officer, Fort Bragg.

"We set high standards for ourselves," Bonds explained. "Team members are selected not only for their parachuting skills, but for how they conduct themselves as a soldier as well."

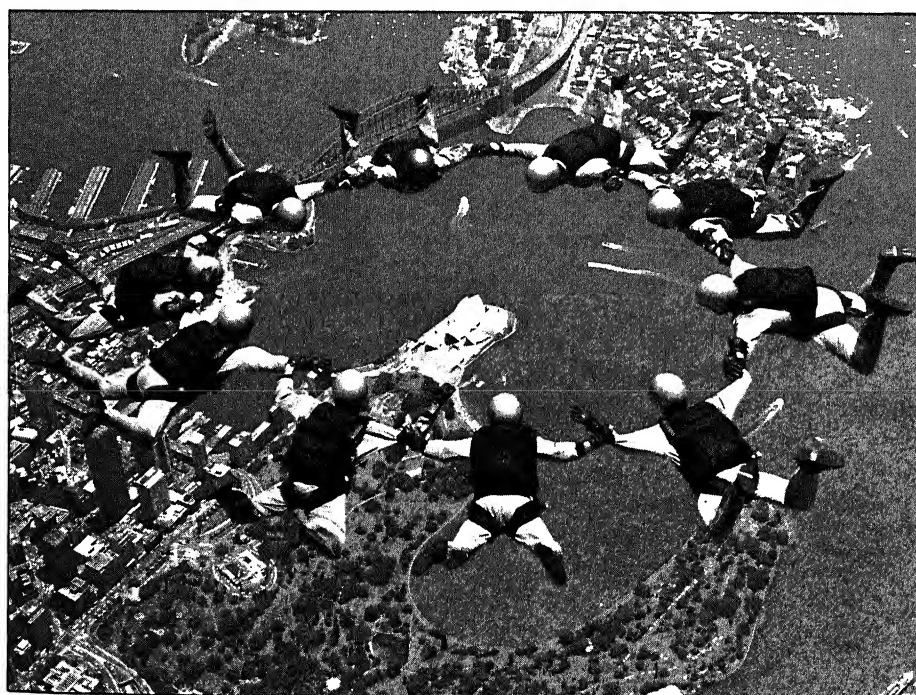
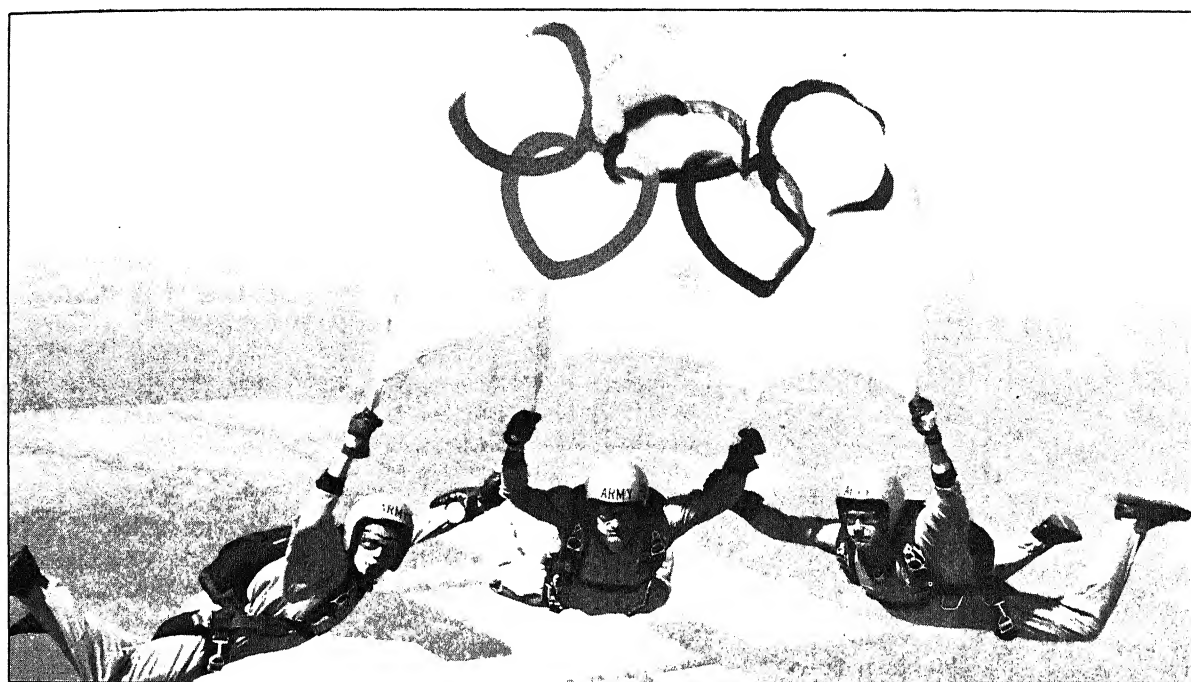
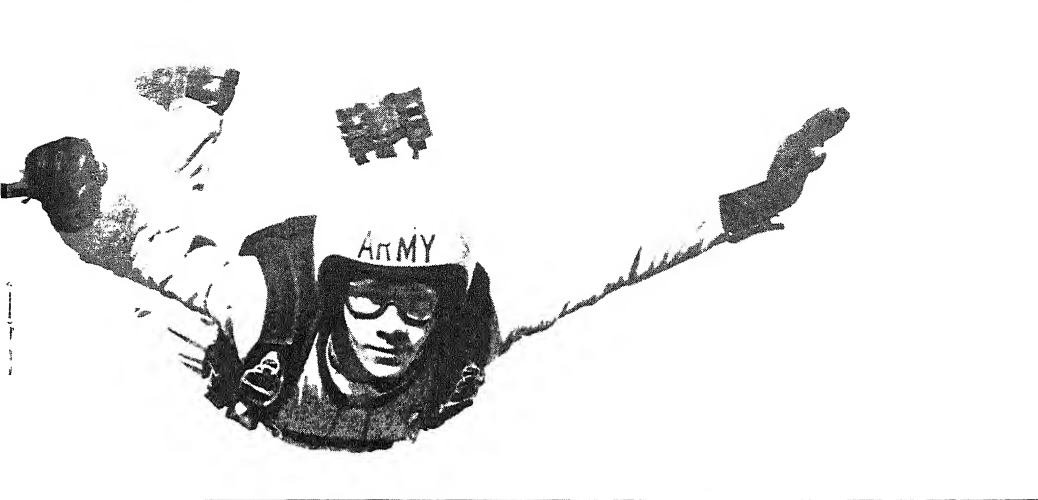
To become a member of the Golden Knights, a soldier must first submit an application and a packet containing jump experience, a full-length photo, and letters of recommendation from his commanding officer and supervisors.

"A soldier does not have to be airborne qualified when he or she applies. If they are accepted to the team, we can send them to the three-week airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga.

"Many of our applicants are members of military sport parachute clubs. We do like our applicants to have between 100 to 150 freefalls under their belt before they apply, however. Many of the sport parachute clubs have the applications for the Golden Knights. Applications can also be obtained by contacting us," Bonds explained.

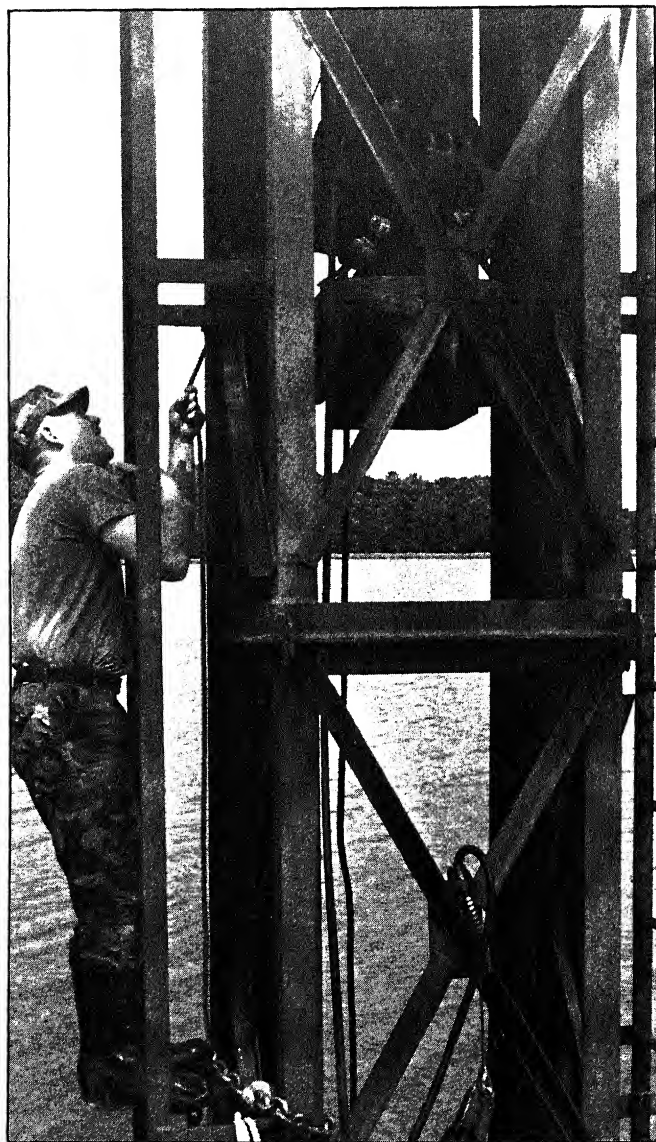
"After reviewing all the packets received, we select between 30 to 50 of the best qualified applicants to participate in our six-week trial and evaluation program held at Fort Bragg each year," Bonds said. "After the trial program, we choose the best qualified from this group to join the Golden Knights.

"We have to be the best. When we do a demonstration, we're representing the U.S. Army. We have to be able to perform in the air, then hit the ground and be able to speak intelligently to the crowd or to a member of the press," Bonds concluded. "We are one of the finest precision parachute teams in the world."



Top: Two Golden Knights freefall, holding a ceremonial baton and marking their descent with smoke billowing from their boots. Center: Three Golden Knights freefall while holding the Olympic flag. Bottom: The Golden Knights perform an aerial maneuver over the Opera House in Sydney, Australia.

Construction



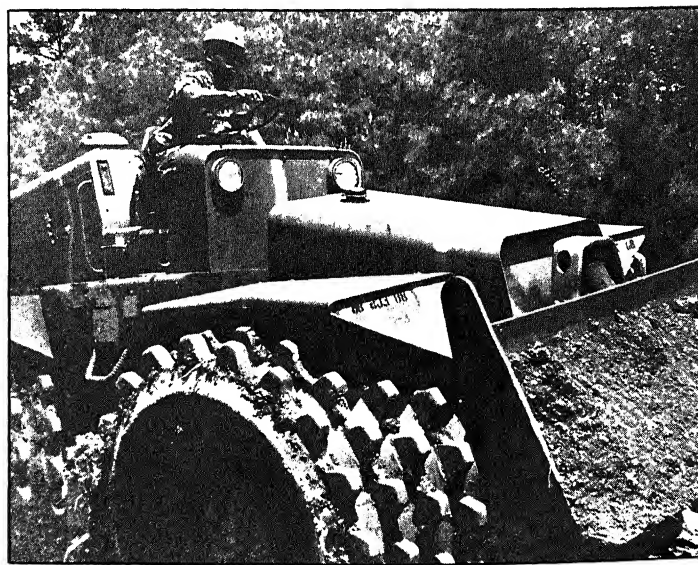
Sgt. Gordon S. Mitchell adjusts a 7,000-pound piledriving hammer prior to a bridge construction at Fort Eustis, Va.

Story and photos by
Spc. Paul White

When Army engineers refer to their motto, "Engineers Shall Always Deliver," they're not talking about the mail. What engineers do deliver, however, is buildings, bridges, roads, and other general construction support for Army posts throughout the world.

At Fort Eustis, Va., the handiwork of the 497th Engineer Co.-Port Construction is evident in several diverse projects ranging from the post guard house to the post go-kart track. "Just about everywhere you go here you'll see our accomplishments," said Sgt. Steven A. Davis, a six-year veteran of the company.

Like most engineer units, the 183-member 497th is a self-contained unit, equipped with the personnel and expertise to handle a project from its initial stages to its completion. Separate platoons within each company provide the unit its versatility. Construction platoons feature soldiers trained in job specialty skills such as carpentry, drafting, surveying, plumbing and masonry. Heavy equipment platoons handle the bulldozers, cranes and



Heavy machinery and its operators form the nucleus of eng

Specialists

graders. Maintenance platoon soldiers prepare and service these machines.

"Teamwork is especially important to engineers," said Spec. Paul S. Izyk, a plumber. "With so many different jobs within the company, it's the only way we get anything done."

Initial training for engineers takes place at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The length of training (normally four to 14 weeks) varies depending upon the specific job. Experience in engineer-related skills can help, but Davis estimated that three-fourths of the soldiers in the 497th entered the military without such experience.

More training usually follows at the initial duty station. "Most engineer units have a specialized mission in addition to general construction," said 1st Sgt. John Henry Williams, the 497th's senior enlisted soldier. "Our specialty is building and repairing ports and bridges. When people first get here, the basic engineering isn't really a problem, but once they see the things we do over water and the different pieces of equipment we use, they realize they've got a lot to learn."

Other engineer units throughout the Army hone skills such as salvage activities, airstrip construction, firefighting and crash rescue operations. Combat engineering, a related job, combines normal engineering duties with battlefield-related activities

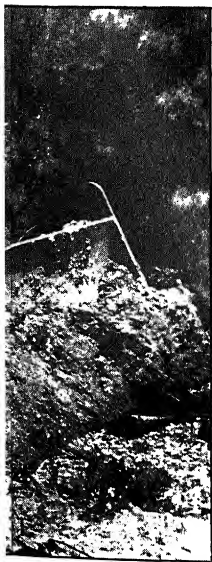
such as constructing minefields and installing booby traps. In wartime, combat engineers could be deployed as an infantry unit.

Engineers can count on a steady variety of projects, one right after the next, Williams added. "When we're not working on a project we're performing general maintenance on our equipment," he said. "After that it's right back to work. There's not much 'down' time."

"Engineers must also be flexible," Williams continued. "When people ask us to build something, they don't worry about the logistics. That's our job. They simply want it done."

He cited a bridge the unit constructed over an enclosed, man-made lake. "With all the trees and building surrounding the water, we couldn't get most of our heavy equipment into position to be used," Williams said. "It's not unusual," Davis added. "Many times we just have to improvise, come up with ideas to eliminate the obstacles."

"We've nicknamed it 'Manual Bridge,' said Williams, laughing, "because it was built almost entirely through manual labor." Its completion symbolizes what he termed an engineer's "greatest source of pride -- the finished product. We'll leave here one day, but our work stays," he said. "Our contributions to the post are evident long after we move on." 



er units.



Right: Pvt. Dirk Long digs into the task of clearing a construction site.

Learning the Language

Story and photo by
SSgt. Linda Mitchell

In a dormitory hallway, two caucasian students hold a conversation in Mandarin Chinese, sounding like they'd been raised in China.

In a dining hall, a conversation between an Arab student and an Israeli student takes place. The Arab speaks fluent Hebrew, and the Israeli answers him in equally-fluent Arabic.

"Instructors speak to each other and to students half in English and half in a foreign language--often in the same sentence," said Seaman Apprentice Norman Koenighaus. "It's confusing to students at times, but it has become second nature to the instructors."

Students quickly become familiar with the language they're learning.

"The instructors" are military language instructors (MLIs) at the U.S. Army's Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

"Students must quickly become familiar and comfortable with the language they're learning," said Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Terry Vibbert, senior MLI in the Korean Language Department, School of Asian Languages.

"This language will be an integral part of their military career, so they practice it constantly, both in and out of the classroom. When students come to me and say, 'I actually spoke and thought in Korean in my dreams last night', I know I'm doing my job."

Students at DLI learn the basics of one of about 33 languages and dialects, ranging from Albanian to Vietnamese. Some learn familiar languages like German and French, and others are challenged by Bulgarian, Czech, Persian and Polish. Courses such as Spanish are six weeks long, while more difficult courses like Russian and Korean last about a year.

About 80 percent of the graduates will fill cryptologic and related positions.

The basic requirements of language proficiency include speaking, reading, writing, listening and comprehension. "We teach 'survival' skills," explained Tech. Sgt. Stan Vose, an MLI in the Korean Language Department. "When they arrive in Korea, they can ask for food, shelter and transportation, read signs and hold simple conversations. Additionally, they can read, comprehend and accurately translate the military messages and documents they receive as part of their jobs."

Koenighaus and fellow Korean language student, Army Spc. Al Pierce, are in their ninth month of training. "I chose Korean because I had been assigned in Korea," Pierce said. "Graduates of the school warned me about how stressful it is," Pierce continued, "but I figured I could handle it."

During six hours of daily classroom instruction, students gradually advance from speaking about 90 percent English/10 percent foreign language to speaking nearly 100 per cent in the foreign language.

"Outside the classroom, we normally study about four hours at night, plus more hours on the weekend," Pierce said.

"It's like in algebra--you use what you just learned to get through the next step."

From the day students arrive until they leave, the pressure to excel is constant. "We can't forget words and grammar patterns after taking a test, because



These students are learning basic Korean at the Defense Language Institute.

we'll be using them again in the future" Koenighaus explained. "We have to take this knowledge and build on it. It's like algebra—you use what you just learned to get through the next step."

"I have kept a 'mini-glossary' of words we've learned since the beginning," Pierce said. "I've got about 5,500 words listed. Plus, we recently started learning Chinese characters, and I've already listed about 100 of those."

"Students must have a really strong background in English grammar, punctuation and sentence structure," said Vose. "Each language is taught using English grammar terminology. For example, if they don't know how to conjugate verbs in English, they'll have a hard time in Korean."

Studying includes not thinking in English.

"Good study habits are extremely important," Vibbert said. "Some students can make good grades in high school without trying. Here, I guarantee they'll have to organize and maintain good study habits."

"Studying includes not thinking in English," he continued. "Often, literal translations from English to Korean don't work. For example, translating 'Hello, how are you' using the correct Korean words literally translates as 'Are you doing things in peace and tranquility?' Students need to think like a native Korean when speaking as opposed to directly translating the English words into Korean."

In addition to learning the language, students learn about the country's culture, including history, music, dance, foods, styles of dress and generally what to expect when they arrive in country.

The jobs students will fill are mostly combat-related and will become vital in wartime situations.

The jobs students will be filling in the military are mostly combat-related and will become vital in wartime situations. Their vocabulary increases when they attend a military enhancement course, which teaches them to translate military terminology from English to the foreign language and vice versa. "For example," Pierce said, "our Army messages refer to numbers of platoons and divisions, grid coordinates, and other military terms. I must translate those numbers and messages with absolute accuracy. If I make a mistake, a platoon could be sent into a danger zone."

Throughout the course, students receive quarterly grades, which are totalled at the end for a final grade. In addition, students take an end-of-course Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) to see how well they use what they've learned.

From the beginning, students work toward the day when they'll take and pass the DLPT. "The DLPT tests us on how well we use the language, rather than how well we've memorized words and phrases," Koenighaus said.

"Over the months of the course," he concluded, "students have found that the best way to become comfortable with the language is live, eat and dream it. When it is absolutely vital, the language will become second nature to us like it is for the instructors." ◊



Sergeant Stanton creates an ice sculpture for a military function at the Langley Air Force Base Noncommissioned Officers Club.

Club Managers

Entertainment, Inc.

Story and photo by
SSgt. Linda Mitchell

April 5th was Sergeant Andrews' first wedding anniversary, and he wanted to do something special to celebrate with his wife.

He decided to take her to dinner and dancing. He discovered by calling the base noncommissioned officers (NCO) club that the band playing that night was one he and his wife enjoyed. He then made special arrangements with the club's caterer for a cake and a bottle of champagne to be served after dinner.

"The first priority of open mess management specialists is to make sure customers like Sergeant Andrews are happy with the service they receive, whether it's an anniversary party, enjoying a relaxing hour after work or just cashing a check," said Staff Sgt. David Stanton, an open mess management specialist at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"The most enjoyable part of our job is making sure arrangements like these go smoothly," he said. "We do this by hiring the best people for the job, including caterers, chefs, waiters and waitresses, bartenders and other club personnel."

Open mess management specialists work mainly behind the scenes. They are accountants, personnel managers, inventory clerks and entertainment directors all rolled into one. "As financial managers," Stanton explained, "we keep track of how every penny received by the club is spent. This includes ordering the kitchen, dining room and bar stocks and supplies, and paying employee wages."

Knowing when to buy or replenish stocks and supplies entails daily inventories. Open mess management specialists check stocks, such as silverware, china, glassware and table linens and account for losses due to breakage or wear.

NCO clubs are a prime source of entertainment for military members and their families. Most NCO clubs have pool tables, pinball machines and other mechanical games.

"Open mess management specialists also hire local bands, singers and disc jockeys for weekly or month-

ly engagements," Stanton said. "We gauge the customers' reactions to each entertainment, and try to continue hiring the most popular ones."

Entertainment combines with the catering aspect of the job in many ways. "We cater private and official in-club functions, including weddings, birthday and anniversary parties, military dinner dances, and military school graduations.

"Any of these events could entail setting up separate dining rooms; catering duties, such as special cakes, food, drinks and decorations; hiring entertainment, and making sure all necessary club personnel are on duty," Stanton added. In addition, they provide food and refreshments for activities outside the club, including base sports events, open houses and other official functions.

People holding degrees in restaurant management or culinary arts, or having experience working in the field, may enlist with a contract guarantee to enter the open mess management specialist career field after basic training. "This includes experience as fast-food restaurant managers," Stanton said. "Restaurant management and culinary arts courses taken in high schools or vocational-technical schools are invaluable. However, people can also enter the Air Force in another career field, take some of these courses during their off-duty time, and then retrain into this field."

Open mess management specialist training is taught in a seven-week course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Students learn the basics of club operations, including bookkeeping and inventory procedures. They also learn techniques to work effectively with customers and club personnel.

"Most of the job must be learned in the field, however," Stanton added, "because each day may present a new or unique challenge, such as a band that doesn't show up on time, or a personnel situation that must be dealt with. Most open mess management specialists work long hours every day to ensure every operation is handled properly."

Stanton emphasizes, however, that job satisfaction more than justifies the long hours. "If the club's operations run smoothly, our customers are happy. That's our number one priority." ♦

Newport, R.I.

Story and photos by
SSgt. Linda Mitchell

Strategically located on Aquidneck Island in Narragansett Bay, Newport, R.I., has for more than two hundred years provided a homeport to merchantmen, whaling ships and small fishing vessels. Naval ships ranging from Revolutionary War men-o-war to modern battleships have moored there.

The sea provided a means of livelihood for Native Americans and the first English colonists who arrived in the mid-1600s. When Roger Williams and his religious freedom-seeking followers fled to Newport from persecution in Massachusetts, the bay supplied food and a way for the colonists to receive goods from Europe. It also offered a strategic advantage for the Navy and Army during and after the Revolutionary War.

Active from the 1700s through the early 1800s, Newport's Navy gradually became dormant until the 1860s. At the beginning of the Civil War, the government temporarily moved the U.S. Naval Academy from Annapolis, Md., to Newport to protect the faculty and cadets from Confederate capture.

Since 1869, when an experimental torpedo station was built on Goat Island in Newport's harbor, the Navy's influence has continued to grow in strength and size.

The first enlisted recruit training center (RTC) was built on Newport's Coasters Harbor Island in 1883, followed by the Naval War College in 1884. Although the RTC has moved, the Naval War College continues to train military officers in warfare tactics, management and military operations.

Officers and enlisted men and women assigned to the Naval Education and Training Center provide instruction and assistance to students attending the command's schools. In addition to the Naval War College, the schools include the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, the Officers Training School, the Surface Warfare Officers School, the Navy Chaplains School and the Naval Justice School. Enlisted Navy and Marine Corps personnel, as well as selected Army soldiers, attend



There are no records of when the Old Stone Mill in Touro Park was constructed, and archaeological studies and excavations have failed to prove its origin. The most popular theory, however, is that it's the remains of a Norse church built circa 1050 A.D.

PROFILE, Nov. 1988



The sight of Trinity Episcopal Church, built on a hill overlooking Newport harbor, has greeted sailors entering the harbor since 1726.

the Naval Justice School to become legal clerks and legalmen.

While the Navy's influence has been most prominent in Newport's military history, the Army has also played a role there since 1741. The Artillery Company of Newport, R.I., Militia was chartered that year, making it the nation's oldest active military organization. Members of the unit man the Clarke Street Armory and Museum containing an extensive collection of American and foreign military uniforms and memorabilia.

Fort Adams, now a 21-acre state park, was active from 1799 until 1945 and was the second largest bastioned fort in the United States. Its defenses included powder magazines, breast-high walls for musket men, and three tiers of mounted guns. Visitors can tour the fort and use the picnic area, beach, fishing piers, and boat launching facilities.

In addition to Fort Adams and the armory, Newport provides Navy personnel and visitors with a treasure trove of places to see.

Many of the homes built by the

early colonists now provide a glimpse of what life was like back then. At the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (1675), exhibitions of 18th century cooking and a typical colonial garden can be viewed. Many other homes and buildings contain furniture, china, artwork and other home furnishings typical of their periods.

Trinity Episcopal Church, constructed in 1726, contains America's only wooden, three-tiered wine glass-shaped pulpit and an organ first tested by classical composer George Frederick Handel before being shipped from England. The Quaker Friends Meeting House, built in 1699, was used for New England Yearly Meetings for 205 years. Touro Synagogue, America's first Jewish synagogue, was constructed in 1763. These structures are open to the public for worship and to visit.

Social activities have always been prominent in Newport life, especially after some of the nation's wealthiest families began building summer "cottages" in the 1800s. These fabulous, 50-and-more-room marble, brick

and wood homes contain imported, handcarved, antique wood paneling; tapestries and Persian rugs; alabaster and marble pillars, fireplaces and tables; gold-and silver-framed mirrors and antique furnishings. Beautiful outdoor gardens rival those of European palaces. Many of the "cottages" are held in trust by the Preservation Society of Newport and are open to the public most of the year.

Additionally, the cottages are used to host music concerts several times a year. The concerts are normally open to the public.

Thousands of visitors and residents attend the annual Newport Summer Jazz Festival and other outdoor music concerts. Additional forms of entertainment include restaurants and clubs, shopping, water sports, tennis, jai alai, art festivals, and just plain walking to see all the sights of Newport.

Additionally, while driving along Ocean Drive, visitors can stop to picnic on and fish from the low cliffs, and watch the Navy's ships sail by, extending Newport's maritime history into the future. ◻



Staff Sgt. John R. McKenzie conducts a class on identifying various types of ordnance.

Delicate Operations

Story and photos
by Spc. Paul White

Lights, camera, action! The camera zooms in on a man inching closer to a bomb while nervously mopping sweat from his brow. Carefully he removes the faceplate and begins tinkering with the device. Time is running out.

One step from successful defusion, the man pauses. Two wires are left. One disconnects the explosive. The other...boom! He produces a pair of wire cutters. He slips the cutters around the wire closest to him, crosses his fingers, winces slightly and ...

"That's how you get killed," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Harold H. Ross Jr., laughing off the popular television and movie scenario. Ross presides over the Marine Corps Base Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team at Camp Lejeune, N.C., a six-member unit responsible for deactivating and disposing of undetonated ammunition, minus the Hollywood heroics. "We stress safety first," said Cpl. Charles Fitzsimmons, one of the team's members. "Nothing is worth losing a life over."

Instead of banking on dumb luck or the whim of a scriptwriter for results, EOD Marines rely on years of experience and training to do their job. The EOD school lasts 21 weeks. Upon graduation, Ross estimates it takes "four to five years before a person becomes totally proficient." Every two to three years there are refresher courses, along with extensive unit training programs. If it seems like these guys never stop learning, you're getting the idea. "We're like a fire department," Ross said. "When we're not working, we're training."

As the base EOD team, the unit clears the weapons ranges of dud ammunition. "When the units have duds, they call range control, who in turn call us," Ross explained. "We go to the scene, evaluate the problem and then do whatever's necessary to eliminate the problem."

Other EOD personnel in the Marine Corps deploy with Navy ships in support of various operations. In certain instances, EOD expertise is requested by civilian law enforcement officials. "We're a bit different from our civilian counterparts," Ross noted, "because we aren't concerned with preserving



Cpl. Charles Fitzsimmons at work...
"We stress safety first. Nothing is worth losing a life over."

evidence. We worry about saving lives first, with concern for property a distant second."

Ross emphasized that the EOD field is strictly volunteer -- "no one just stumbles into this job." Midway through last year, there were less than 250 EOD Marines on active duty. Applicants must have served at least two years in the Corps and be career-oriented. Although applicants may come from any job specialty, most EOD personnel come from infantry-related jobs, Ross said.

Fitzsimmons, targeting himself for EOD upon entering the Corps, elected to work as an ammunition technician for the two years until he could transfer. The similarities between the two jobs eased his tran-

sition into the EOD field, he said.

All candidates are "thoroughly screened" by EOD personnel, which includes an interview and a preliminary test with EOD equipment, Ross said. Those who pass the screening move on to the Naval EOD School for the 21-week course in the basics of weapons, explosives and chemicals, both domestic and foreign. Instruction is split between Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. and Indian Head, Md.

Although the training is extensive, Fitzsimmons said it's worth it to acquire the EOD skills. "Many people are afraid of explosives," he said. "They're nothing to fool around with, but properly trained, there's no reason to be afraid." ♦

